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**From:** Stephen Auten  
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**Date:** 1/26/04 5:56PM  
**Subject:** Claims for Interview on 01-28-04

Please see attached.

Best regards,

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## EXHIBIT A

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A medical container having a negative image bar code~~encoding~~  
~~symbology~~ comprising:

a medical container~~a substrate~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments~~separated by spaces and disposed on the~~  
~~container~~the substrate,

wherein the container defines spaces that separate the light-reflecting  
segments,[[;]]

wherein the spaces~~defined~~defining light-absorbing segments,<sub>2</sub>[[;]]

wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments  
define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information,<sub>2</sub>[[;  
and]]

wherein the~~negative image bar code~~encoding symbology is detectable using  
a reader, and[[.]]

wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the  
group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time,  
price, and concentration.

14. (currently amended) A container having a negative image bar code, the container  
~~encoding symbology~~ comprising:

a flexible film~~substrate~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments~~separated by spaces and~~ disposed on the  
film~~substrate~~,

wherein the film defines spaces that separate the light-reflecting segments,

wherein the spaces~~defined~~defining light-absorbing segments,<sub>2</sub>[[;]]

wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments  
define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information,<sub>2</sub>[[;]]

wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration, and

wherein the negative image bar code encoding symbology is detectable using a reader[[; and]]

~~wherein the substrate comprises a pouch-type flexible container.~~

15. (currently amended) A medical container having a negative image bar code encoding symbology comprising:

a medical container~~substrate~~;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container, wherein the medical container defines first spaces that separate the first plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the first spaces defined~~ defining a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first negative image bar code representing fixed information;

a second plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and disposed on the medical container, wherein the medical container defines second spaces that separate the second plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the second spaces defined~~ defining a second set of light-absorbing segments, wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information, wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration; and

wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are each encoding symbology is detectable using a reader.

16. (currently amended) A medical container having a negative image bar code encoding symbology comprising:

a medical container~~substrate defining a portion of the container~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and~~ disposed on the medical containersubstrate, wherein the medical container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, and wherein the spaces ~~defined~~defining light-absorbing segments;

wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code representing ~~fixed information and~~ variable information;

wherein the negative image bar code is detectable using a reader; and

wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration

~~wherein the container is a medical container.~~

17. (currently amended) A container comprising:

a flexible filmsubstrate;

~~a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the substrate, the spaces defining a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first bar code representing fixed information;~~

a second plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and~~ disposed on the flexible filmsubstrate, wherein the flexible film defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces ~~defined~~defining a second set of light-absorbing segments, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information~~[[;]], wherein the first bar code and second bar code~~ ~~[[are]]~~ is detectable using a reader~~[[; and]]~~, and wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration

~~wherein the container is a medical container.~~

18. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a medical ~~primary~~ container ~~having a substrate~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and~~ disposed on the medical containers ~~substrate~~, wherein the medical container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define light-absorbing segments, wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information, ~~and wherein the bar code is detectable using a reader[;]]~~ and

a material positioned over a portion of the bar codes ~~substrate~~, wherein the portion has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182.

19. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a medical ~~primary~~ container ~~having substrate~~;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and~~ disposed on the medical containers ~~substrate~~, wherein the medical container defines first spaces that separate the first plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the first spaces ~~defined~~ defining a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first negative image bar code representing fixed information;

a second plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and~~ disposed on the medical containers ~~substrate~~, wherein the medical container defines second spaces that separate the second plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the second spaces ~~defined~~ defining a second set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information;

~~wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are detectable using a reader; and~~

a material positioned over a portion each bar code ~~of the substrate~~, wherein each portion has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182.

20. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a medical~~primary~~ container ~~having a~~ substrate;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and~~ disposed on the medical container~~substrate~~, wherein the substrate defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces defined~~defining~~ a first set of light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first negative image bar code representing ~~fixed information or~~ variable information;

a material positioned over a portion of the bar code, and~~substrate~~;

~~a second plurality of light reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the material, the spaces defining a second set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second bar code representing fixed information or variable information;~~

~~wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are detectable using a reader; and~~

wherein the portion of the bar code has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182

~~wherein the combination of the first bar code and the second bar code represent fixed information and variable information.~~

21. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a flexible container~~primary~~ container ~~having a~~ substrate;

~~a material positioned over a portion of the substrate;~~

a plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~separated by spaces and~~ disposed on the flexible container~~material~~, wherein the flexible container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces defined~~defining~~ light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a bar code representing fixed information and variable information, wherein the variable

information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration,[[;]] and wherein the bar code is detectable using a reader[[.]];

a material positioned over a portion of the bar code, wherein the portion of the bar code has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182.

22. (currently amended) A container ~~system~~ comprising:

a film that defines the container~~primary container having substrate;~~

a material positioned over a portion of the substrate;

a first plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the material, the spaces defining a first set of light-absorbing segments, and wherein the first plurality and the first set define a first bar code representing fixed information;

a second plurality of light-reflecting segments separated by spaces and disposed on the ~~film~~material, wherein the film defines spaces that separate the light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces ~~defined~~defining a second set of light-absorbing segments, [[and]] wherein the second plurality and the second set define a second negative image bar code representing variable information, wherein the bar code can be detected by a reader, and wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration.[[;]]

wherein the first bar code and the second bar code are each detectable using a reader.

23. (currently amended) A method of transferring a negative image bar code onto a flexible web of material comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible web of material;

providing a printer capable of transferring a plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~negative image bar code~~ onto the web in response to a signal representative of the plurality of



light-reflecting segments, negative image bar code, the negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information; and

transferring the signal to the printer; and

transferring the plurality of light-reflecting segments ~~negative image bar code~~ onto the ~~web of material~~, wherein the web defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define a plurality light-absorbing segments, wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code that can be detected by a reader, wherein the negative image bar code represents fixed information and variable information, and wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration.

25. (currently amended) A container system comprising:

a flexible~~primary~~ container ~~having a substrate~~;

a plurality of light-reflecting segments disposed on the flexible container, wherein the flexible container defines spaces that separate the plurality of light-reflecting segments, wherein the spaces define light-absorbing segments, wherein the light-reflecting segments and the light-absorbing segments define a negative image bar code representing variable information, wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration; and[[;]]

a material positioned over a portion of the negative image bar code~~,substrate~~; wherein the portion of the bar code has an A or B scan grade when decoded through the material and in accordance with ANSI X3.182 ~~container system has a negative image bar code representing fixed information and variable information, and wherein the negative image bar code is detectable using a reader.~~

33. (new) A medical container having a bar code comprising:
- a negative image bar code disposed on a medical container,
  - wherein the medical container defines at least two spaces in the bar code, the spaces absorbing light,
  - wherein the negative image bar code is detectable with a bar code reader,
  - wherein the negative image bar code comprises variable information, and
  - wherein the variable information comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: lot number, batch number, expiration date, serial number, production time, price, and concentration.